

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0487

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4770

FOR ANDREWS FROM SIMONS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: STATE 170740

1. IN REPLY TO YOUR REQUEST, FOLLOWING IS THE BEST INFORMATION
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER IN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE.

2. EMIGRANTS CAN TAKE WITH THEM CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS
ONLY. THEY CANNOT TAKE CURRENCY, JEWELRY (EXCEPT WEDDING
RING), POSTAGE STAMPS OR OTHER VALUABLES. OBJECTS OF ART,
SUCH AS PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, ANTIQUES, RUGS, ETC., MAY BE
TAKEN OUT ONLY AFTER PERMISSION IS OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSION
ON THE NATIONAL PATRIMONY. IN PRACTICE, SUCH PERMISSION
NEVER GRANTED FOR OBJECTS OVER FIFTY YEARS OLD. THE EMIGRANT
ALSO CANNOT TAKE OUT OF ROMANIA ANY VITAL STATISTICS,
DOCUMENTS OR WORK RECORDS. HOWEVER, IF HE LEAVES THE
COUNTRY LEGALLY, HE MAY REQUEST SUCH DOCUMENTATION THROUGH
THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY OF HIS NEW COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE.
SCHOOL RECORDS MAY BE TAKEN OUT ONLY WITH PRIOR
PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

3. BEFORE HE IS GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE PERMANENTLY,
EMIGRANT MUST DISPOSE OF ALL PROPERTY, PAY ALL DEBTS,
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SETTLE ALL OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS AND DISPUTES, ETC.
IN CASE OF REAL ESTATE, PROPERTY IS "ACQUIRED" BY THE
STATE UNDER TERMS OF DECREE 223 OF 1974. COMPENSATION
PAID IS MAXIMUM OF 40,000 LEI FOR URBAN PROPERTY AND
20,000 LEI FOR RURAL PROPERTY. EMIGRANT MAY GIVE
POWER OF ATTORNEY TO OTHERS TO COMPLETE TRANSACTION
WITH STATE ON HIS BEHALF, BUT PROCEEDS FROM SUCH

"SALE" MAY NOT BE TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY. WHILE TECHNICALLY A PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANT MAY SELL HIS REAL ESTATE PRIVATELY BEFORE HE ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN PASSPORT APPLICATION FORMS, IF THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO ACTIONS IS SHORT THE PRIVATE SALE MAY STILL BE CANCELLED BY THE

STATE AND PROPERTY TAKEN OVER UNDER DECREE 223. ONCE HE HAS APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION, THE APPLICANT CANNOT SELL HIS REAL PROPERTY OR GIVE IT AWAY AND FOLLOWING DEPARTURE, IF HE IS ABLE TO DEPART BEFORE THE STATE HAS TAKEN OVER THE PROPERTY, CANNOT RETAIN TITLE OR NAME A CARETAKER.

4. INFORMATION ON FEES THAT AN APPLICANT MUST PAY TO OBTAIN A PASSPORT APPLICATION, EXIT VISA, THE PASSPORT, ETC. VARIES. INFORMATION OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM MFA IS THAT THE PRE-FORMS ARE FREE BUT THAT 25 LEI MUST BE PAID WHEN THE PRE-FORMS ARE SUBMITTED. ONCE THE PASSPORT ISSUANCE HAS BEEN APPROVED, THE APPLICANT MUST PAY 25 LEI FOR THE PASSPORT AND 300 LEI FOR THE EXIT VISA. RENEWAL OF THE EXIT VISA IS ALSO 25 LEI. THESE FEES ARE CHARGED PER PASSPORT REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN INCLUDED IN ONE'S PASSPORT. INFORMATION OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM APPLICANTS INDICATE THAT WHILE 25 LEI MUST BE PAID ON SUBMISSION OF THE PRE-FORMS, THE PASSPORT AND EXIT VISA COST 375 LEI AND

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THAT RENEWAL OF THE EXIT VISA IS ALSO 375 LEI. WE SUSPECT THAT THE FEES GIVEN BY MFA ARE THE CORRECT ONES BUT THAT CERTAIN OFFICERS AT CERTAIN PASSPORT OFFICES MAY BE CHARGING WHAT THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR.

5. WE HAVE NOTICED THAT AT LEAST IN BUCHAREST IT HAS BEEN EASIER RECENTLY TO OBTAIN BOTH PRE-APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FORMS. SINCE THE ISSUANCE OF PRE-APPLICATION FORMS IS, AT LEAST, AT THE BEGINNING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, NO GENERAL ACCURATE STATEMENT MAY BE MADE IN THIS MATTER.

6. WE HAVE QUICKLY REVIEWED OUR COPIES OF THE EMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS (JANUARY 1-JUNE 30) AND FOUND THAT OUT OF 260 EMIGRANTS, 51 WERE PROFESSORS, 86 WERE SKILLED OR SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS, 4 WERE UNSKILLED WORKERS, 15 WERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, 21 WERE RETIRED AND 1 WAS A PIANO PLAYER. THE REST OF THE APPLICANTS WERE HOUSEWIVES AND CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

7. WE DO NOT KEEP STATISTICS ON EMIGRANTS TO THE US

EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH TCP BY CREED, RACE OR
NATIONAL ORIGIN. THUS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE
WHAT PROPORTION OF SUCH EMIGRANTS ARE JEWISH AND
WHETHER OR NOT THE PERCENTAGE IS RISING OR
DECREASING. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTED THAT OUT OF 565
PERSONS WHO LEFT ROMANIA FOR THE US WITH EIMIGRANT VISAS
OR TCP DOCUMENTATION DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF
THIS YEAR, 11 APPEAR TO BE JEWISH BY THEIR NAMES.
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